

Self-reflection on the Mingde trip to Guigang

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This is my second time joining the Mingde trip visit to Guigang. Apart from discussing the kindergarten project, the other aims are to do the inspection on the complete toilet and to conduct the surveying on the region where the kindergarten would be located. Same as last time, I have learnt several things during this trip.

Before going to Guigang, we had a meeting on the structural design of the project. There were various items discussed on the meeting, including the elevated staircase supported with Cantilever beam, concave slab design for the toilet and upstanding beam on the roof. These are not commonly covered in the lecture and we have to understand the concept and explain them to the principal, architect and the local contractor. It is a good chance for me to train my presentation skill.

During the visit in Guigang, we have done an inspection on the finished toilet and we found that there were a few problems regarding the pipe installation and toilet flushing system. After that, we have figured out different solutions for the problems, including adding extra pipes towards the flushing tank, increasing the size of the pipe or even adding a motor in the pipe to boost the water flow. I learnt that the expected impact of the design may not be achieved in practical cases. What we can do is to work on the design more carefully and detailed.

On the second day, we needed to conduct the surveying for the location with unknown height. Due to the geological limitation, the surveying equipment did not perform well on site. Therefore, we need to use an alternative method to do surveying. The most important thing I learnt is that we need to understand the underlying principles of the surveying method, we could still obtain the required data although there are limitations on usage of the surveying equipment.

Furthermore, we have tried the village-style roasted chicken in the primary school. They make use of a kiln built with mud to cook the chicken. The kiln was first heated up to the high temperature and they put the food in it. Then, they broke the kiln into pieces and let the hot mud cover and cook the food. The chicken is juicy and delicious. It is a special experience for me to explore the village dining culture in Guigang.

To summarize, this trip to Guigang is really a fruitful experience for me. I have learnt many new things in the preparation and during the trip, like practising my presentation skills and ways to fix the problem. In addition, I have also experienced the unique dining culture in the village of Guigang.